

*Bldg + Grounds*

6 June 1963

STAT

MEMORANDUM FOR:

Chairman, Fine Arts Commission

SUBJECT

: Art Lending Facilities in Washington

1. A survey of the three public art galleries in Washington concerning their lending services and capabilities has produced the following information:

a. National Gallery of Art - A little over a year ago, Mr. John Walker, the Director, explained that the Gallery had had so many requests from government agencies for loans of original paintings that their trustees had put a moratorium on any further lending. He said that he would be glad to put any request we would like to make before his trustees, but he doubted whether they would make any exception.

Mr. Evans, Chief of their Extension Service Office, told me that this policy is still in effect. The Gallery does offer for sale color reproductions of a wide variety of pictures and sent me the attached listing.

b. Smithsonian Institution - Mrs. Baker, their Art Director, reported that the Smithsonian, through its National Collection of Fine Art, does lend paintings to Federal agencies; but, as she put it, "our lending collection is in sad shape." They have only one painting on hand out of approximately 500 in their loan collection. Their paintings are lent for four-year periods with the right of recall by the Smithsonian when needed for their own purposes. If we want to be notified when paintings become available, we should get in touch with Mr. Thomas Beggs, Director of the National Collection of Fine Art.

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c. Corcoran Gallery of Art - Mrs. Suter, who is Membership Secretary, reported that they have several hundred paintings which are available for loan and which can be seen at the Gallery at any time. However, these paintings are all by contemporary artists and are sent to the Corcoran from a variety of art dealers for sale to Corcoran members. Any person or organization joining the Gallery as a \$10 member can borrow a painting for two months, after which time the borrower determines whether he wishes to purchase or return the painting.

~~SECRET~~  
H. Gates Lloyd  
Assistant Deputy Director  
(Support)

**Attachment:**

Publications Fund - National Gallery of Art  
dtd November 1962

ADD/S:HGL:fp

**Distribution:**

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